

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

COMING TO AMERICA THE ILLEGAL WAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, I want to speak today about how to come to America. Millions of people apply for visas every year, and 90 percent of the people that legally come to this country do so through an immediate family member. If someone has a mother, father, brother, sister or spouse in the United States, they may apply for immigrant visas. They go to the United States consulate, fill out the appropriate paperwork, and then they wait, and continue to wait.

It is a long process even when they are fully eligible. According to the State Department, unmarried sons and daughters of U.S. citizens that are in Mexico or some other foreign country that applied in 1983 are just now being considered for immigration status. Twenty years is too long to make people wait to enter the United States legally.

So while thousands of immigrants patiently wait, millions are sneaking in illegally and exploiting and disregarding American laws every day.

Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the illegal way to come to America. An illegal can walk to the local Mexican flea market, purchase a combination of fake documents. For \$100 or \$200, an illegal can purchase a fake green card as well as a fake Social Security card with the number picked at random. They can borrow someone else's Social Security number, and the next step is crossing the border. This does not seem to be too difficult, especially since the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Relations has made available to Mexican migrants that want to come to the United States this extensive book on how to come to America, even illegally.

The cover of this book, *Guide for the Mexican Migrant*. Throughout this book it shows possible scenarios that could occur to the migrant. First of all, it shows how to cross the border. You run across. If you come across an American border agent, how you handle that situation. It discusses how some places are not as safe as others to cross the border, and it talks about coyotes, those people who are bringing illegal individuals into the United States, and how to deal with those individuals. This book is extensive on how to come to America the illegal way published by the Mexican government.

Once they get into the United States, it is simple to visit their local consulate, and for \$26 they can purchase a matricula consular card, which is a so-

called identification card issued by the Mexican consulate to prove an illegal immigrant's identity. This card has been pushed onto the United States Federal Government. The Mexican government wants the Federal Government to use these identification cards, but the Federal Government refuses to do so. So Mexican consulates are going to local communities, local governments and trying to get them and businesses to use this document.

The card resembles a driver's license and is becoming widely accepted as a form of identification at many of the Nation's banks, car dealerships, insurance companies, and even in some States they are allowing individuals to purchase or get driver's licenses based upon this document. It is so widely accepted that many companies are spending millions of dollars marketing directly to these migrant card holders.

It is a total lack of enforcement of our immigration law by the Federal Government that puts businesses in the United States in this precarious position. It seems to me to come to the United States is not that difficult. In May of this year, the Department of Homeland Security arrested 60 illegal immigrants who worked in 12 critical infrastructure sites in six States, including my home State of Texas.

Illegal immigrants were working as subcontractors at seven petrochemical refineries, three electric power plants, and a pipeline facility. They were said to have presented phony documents and some of them had entered the country after being deported once before.

Although this may sound distressing, it is not shocking considering that we require employers to accept 94 different documents to verify an employee's legal status. The United States policy makes businesses in the United States do the police work that the Federal Government ought to be doing.

There seems to be a growing amount of fraud associated with Social Security cards as well. Illegal immigrants use fake Social Security cards, they buy legitimate Social Security cards from migrants, and some of them use the same Social Security card at different times.

In 1986, the United States offered amnesty to millions of illegal individuals, and we are still suffering from that policy because it is estimated that 3 million of those immigrants received resident papers and went directly back to their homeland where they made a profit from loaning out those papers to other individuals in their homeland, and then they came to the United States and used them.

Most of this is taking place unbeknownst to the employer that unknowingly accepted the fraudulent document in the first place. Not only is this widespread use of fake documents deplorable, it is also detrimental to homeland security. Eighteen of the 19 hijackers possessed either a State-issued or counterfeit driver's license or

ID, and all 19 of them had obtained some sort of Social Security number.

And the word has gotten out. Due to the widespread acceptance of the matricula consular card, other countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Peru, and even Poland are preparing to issue similar cards for their own citizens that come to the United States illegally; and why not? Clearly we are not punishing those that continue to break the law and exploit America's compassion to other foreign citizens.

Madam Speaker, if the United States expects to solve the immigrant problem, we must come up with a plan to stop the widespread use of fraudulent documents. If we are truly, as "Business Week" puts it, "embracing illegals," then our homeland is at risk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

31ST ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH INVASION OF CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 31st anniversary of the 1974 illegal Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

I have commemorated this day each year since I became a Member of Congress. PSEKA, the International Coordinating Committee, Justice for Cyprus, the Cyprus Federation of America, the World Council of Hellenes Abroad, the Federation of Hellenic Societies are all located in the 14th Congressional District of New York, which I am fortunate to represent.

These organizations believe that peace will come to Cyprus, and they have been strong advocates against the division of Cyprus and the human rights violations perpetrated by the Turkish army in Cyprus. While we must remember this black anniversary, we also need to look to the future. Cyprus' accession to the European Union was an historic achievement. As an EU member, Cyprus represents European values and policies, and at the same time is working toward even stronger transatlantic ties with the United States.

This was a long time in coming, and I believe that Cyprus has much to contribute to the EU. Although all of us,

including the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, want to see the division of Cyprus end before its entrance into the EU, the Annan plan for a Cyprus settlement was justly voted down by the Greek Cypriots by an overwhelming 76 percent.

My colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), outlined the many reasons why this vote took place.

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But we have also heard that many of the residents are working to resolve these disputes and that there is growing strength for a unified Cyprus. A unified Cyprus would promote stability both politically and economically to the entire Mediterranean region. The people of Cyprus deserve a unified and democratic country, and I remain hopeful that a peaceful settlement will be found so that the division of Cyprus will come to an end. Some of us are calling for a special envoy to Cyprus to work towards achieving that end.

However, there have been recent developments that concern me, and I know that they may concern many of my colleagues. Earlier this month, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and I sent a letter, along with 30 other Members of this body, to Secretary of State Rice asking for clarification about U.S. policy toward Cyprus. Specifically, we are seeking answers about the policy of the United States regarding travel directly into the northern occupied parts of Cyprus by U.S. citizens.

While we have not yet heard from the Secretary, I remain hopeful that our relations with Cyprus will remain steadfast and that we will continue to adhere to international treaties and U.N. Security Council resolutions on this issue.

I also want to mention the ongoing issue in Cyprus over property in the northern part of the island. Since Turkey invaded Cyprus, American citizens have been denied access to their property even though they hold titles to that property. I urge my colleagues to support legislation offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), H.R. 857, the American-Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act, which would enable U.S. citizens who own property in the Turkish-occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus to seek financial remedies with either the current inhabitants of their land or the Turkish Government.

Additionally, I have introduced a resolution, H.R. 322, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives in support of the European Court of Human Rights for its decision in the *Loizidou v. Turkey* and the *Xenides-Arestis v. Turkey* cases and for admitting similar cases before the court.

The European Court of Human Rights in 1996 ruled that Turkey must pay Titina Loizidou for denying her access to her property in the occupied part of Cyprus. Earlier this year the

European Court of Human Rights decided that a similar case brought by Xenides-Arestis against Turkey was admissible and that Turkey continues to be responsible for what happens in the occupied areas of Cyprus since Turkey exercises effective and overall control through the presence of over 30,000 troops in northern Cyprus.

While I hope that Turkey respects the decisions made by the European Court of Human Rights, I believe that denying property owners access to their land in northern Cyprus is wrong and that steps should be taken immediately to address this issue. Thirty-one years is too long to have a divided country. It is too long to be kept from one's home. It is too long to be separated from one's family. We have seen many tremendous changes around the world. It is time for Cyprus to live in peace and security with full enjoyment of their human rights.

In recognition of the spirit of the people of Cyprus, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 31st anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus. Long live freedom. Long live Cyprus. Long live Greece. And long live the United States and the friendship between our countries.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. OTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OTTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my time out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues have recently unveiled a new plan to carve out private accounts from the surplus of the Social Security trust fund. This is the same trust fund that President Bush said was nonexistent just a few months ago. The President traveled with great fanfare to West Virginia where he said, There is no Social Security trust fund, just a bunch of IOUs stacked in an old filing cabinet.

Let me tell the Members something. That old filing cabinet was a new filing cabinet before it got \$639 billion taken out of it; and before the year is up, it will be \$800 billion that was taken out of the Social Security surplus used for anything but Social Security. That is the problem.

And now it seems that the Republicans in Congress have come to a stalemate. The President wants to privatize Social Security and cut benefits for the middle class. The congressional Republican leadership would rather avoid benefit cuts, but they too want to privatize Social Security.

While the White House and congressional Republicans struggle to decide which privatization plan they want to be for, I suggest a totally different approach to Social Security: save Social Security first. The surplus should have been for Social Security. It should always be for Social Security. And my suggestion is on the \$800 billion they already took out of it, before they do anything else with some grand plan to cut benefits or privatize it, pay back the \$800 billion they took.

I worked in an administration where we cut taxes for the middle class, balanced the budget, and extended the life of the trust fund by 10 years. Why? Because we had an economic plan that worked. It grew the economy. It grew middle-class incomes. It helped homeownership. It reduced the poverty rate, and we added 10 years to the life of the Social Security trust fund, and we cut taxes for the middle class, and we balanced the budget, unlike the \$2 trillion of additional debt we have added on to the books and on to the shoulders of our children. But it requires leadership and priorities, which is in short supply around here.

Before we create any private accounts or do anything else to fundamentally alter the character and nature of Social Security, our task here is to strengthen Social Security for the future and guarantee its future. And none of the plans, none of the various privatization plans, none of the ideas of benefit cuts or raising the age, none of that adds to the solvency. And the task here, Mr. Speaker, is to strengthen Social Security.

The American people have rejected the President's plan. They have rejected the congressional plan. They have rejected anything to do with privatization because they know it is the wrong way. I am going to tell the Members something as a person who represents a lot of employees from United Airlines: folks like the security that comes with Social Security.

They have had it up to here with risk, and all they are providing with privatization is more risk on top of more risk. They have it in their health care. They have it in their jobs. They have it in their own retirement savings. They do not need more risk, and they like the foundation of security that comes with Social Security. Ask any steel worker, any person who works for United Airlines or the airlines industry who lost their pensions or the 14,000 people at Hewlett-Packard, and they will say that privatization of Social Security is a nonstarter.

Middle-class families are struggling. They have flat wages, a 55 percent increase in energy costs, 10 percent increase in health care costs, 11 percent